

Miscellaneous.

RESTORATIONS IN TAKELY CHURCH.—

There has been from time immemorial in the parish church of Takely a beautiful font cover, carved in oak, of pyramidal form and elegant proportions, but which, from the lapse of time and neglect, had become much mutilated, and for a long period had been defaced by a thick coating of red paint. This interesting relic is a specimen of the florid gothic style, ornamented with three tiers of niches, rising above each other, and terminating with a beautiful finial. Each niche is surmounted by a canopy of elaborate open tracery work, and adorned with a profusion of pinnacles, crockets, and finials. Flying buttresses, of light and airy character, separate the niches from each other. By the care of the late respected vicar, the Rev. Charles Clarke, it has been restored, and is now worthy the inspection of every lover of ecclesiastical architecture. By an ingenious contrivance, the cover is raised or depressed at will. The counterpoise of a very large weight, concealed above the ceiling, is hung by spectacle pulleys, from which two chains, running through the weight, are affixed to the finial of the cover; this is locked to the font, but as soon as detached by the turn of a key, it rises immediately to a certain height, and is as easily brought down when required. There being also in the church a large quantity of antique carved oak panelling, having tracery of the same character as the font cover, and which had long been cast aside as useless lumber, the Rev. Charles Clarke and the churchwardens wisely determined on having the old, rough, and deforming paint removed, and the broken work restored. With these, the pulpit has been embellished, and a reading-desk formed; and by the removal of some most unsightly pews, room was made for a series of open benches, having decorated ends, richly moulded; these also have been constructed out of the old panelling before referred to. The pulpit was originally octagonal, but there being only five panels left, it was carried back to an ornamented recess in the north wall, the beauty of which has only lately re-appeared, by the removal of a thick coat of whitewash. This recess is in the Tudor, or late perpendicular style, square-headed, and ornamented with an ogee arch, richly carved and adorned with tracery, crockets, and finials, the whole being surmounted by a battlement, with a hollow moulding beneath, in which are placed the Tudor rose and square flower, characteristic of this style. The whole of these alterations were designed and carried out by Mr. Wm. Ollett, jun., wood and stone carver, of Norwich. Mr. Ollett's father is well known in the city of Norwich as a carver in wood, and particularly in ecclesiastical architecture. He was a candidate for a portion of the carved work in the new House of Lords. — *Chelmsford Chronicle*.

TOWNS IMPROVEMENT CLAUSES ACT.—

The *Times* gives the following abstract of this Act, which received the royal assent on the 21st ult.:—"Wherever the Act is adopted, surveys and authentic maps of the districts within the limits of its operation are to be made, proper sewers and house drains are to be constructed, roads and footways are to be well paved, streets are to be laid out and improved with a view to general convenience, precautions are to be taken with reference to dangerous buildings and the execution of work, streets are to be duly cleansed, nuisances are to be abated; the consumption of smoke, precautions against fire, and the ventilation of public buildings are to be attended to; common lodging houses are to be placed under supervision, supplies of gas and water are to be afforded, slaughter-houses are to be regulated, and places for public recreation, public baths and washhouses, and public clocks are to be provided. For all these purposes of unquestionable general advantage general rates are to be raised.

THE CARPENTERS' TRIBUTE.—A beautiful piece of wood-work, representing a monumental tribute, was lately carried by eight men in a procession of 500, to the residence of M. Berryer, Rue Neuve des Petits Champs, Paris, and there presented to him as the only tribute of gratitude or recompense he would receive, for having ably defended the body of carpenters, accused some time since of a coalition.

CROMLECHS.—At a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, Mr. Britton addressed a letter to the president "On Cromlechs and Kistvaens," accompanied by the exhibition of numerous drawings of each class of such Celtic monuments. The object of this paper was to show that both the cromlech and the kistvaen were sepulchral in their origin, with this difference between them; the former consists of the largest blocks, which are put further apart from each other, without any attempt to fill the interstices; are placed on high ground in open view, instead of being immersed in a barrow, and the lid or roof is one large and prominent block, instead of being made of several pieces. The kistvaen, or *stone chest*, is an inclosure of stones smaller than those of the cromlech, placed in an upright position, almost or quite touching each other, inclosing a bottom of rock or stones; it is completed by a covering of several flat stones, and closely surrounded by a mound of earth. They are found not only throughout our own empire, but also in France, Spain, Scandinavia, Russia, and even in North and South America. They have therefore excited great discussion; and while Norden, Camden, Aubrey, Stukeley, Borlase, and Pennant advocate their funeral appropriation, Toland, Rowland, Pegge, and King maintain that they were altars for the sacrifice of human victims, as alluded to by Caesar, Tacitus, Strabo, and others. Whitaker thought that to consider a cromlech an altar for the oblation of sacrifices; was burying good sense in a quagmire of learning. Mr. Britton quotes a long list of writers on this question, and decisively concludes that the true purpose of these monuments is sepulchral; and from the whole argument it can be reasonably inferred, that the British cromlech and kistvaen might be considered as rude representatives of the classic mausoleum and sarcophagus.

COPPER, TIN, &c.—From a return just issued by order of Parliament it appears that the quantity of copper ore imported into the United Kingdom in the year ending 5th of January, 1847, was 81,623 tons; and of copper manufactures (entered by weight) 49 tons, odd, and (entered by value) 4,670*l*. The net amount received in the various kinds of copper imported was about 55,000*l*. The total exports of British copper during the same year was 15,717 tons, and of foreign copper about 550 tons, besides 536*l*. worth of copper manufactures entered by value. The total quantity of British copper exported from the port of London was upwards of 6,197 tons; and from Liverpool, 4,360 tons. Of tin there were imported into the United Kingdom during 1846, 1,015 tons, and 3 tons 17 cwt. of tin ore and regulus. There were exported from the United Kingdom during the same period, 1,195 tons of British tin, and 1,051 of foreign. Of zinc, there were imported 7,245 tons, and of lapis calaminaris 150 tons into the United Kingdom (duty free); and exported from the kingdom, 1,212 tons of British, and 4,783 of foreign zinc or spelter. Of lead, there were imported 7,862 tons of pig or sheet lead, 724 tons of lead ore, and 12 tons 13 cwt. of white lead. There were exported from the United Kingdom in the same year 53 tons 13 cwt. of lead ore, 6,421 tons of pig or rolled lead, 1,073 tons of shot, 349 tons of litharge, 812 tons of red lead, 1,436 of white lead (all British), and 4,700 tons of foreign pig or sheet lead, and 1 ton 17 cwt. of foreign lead ore.

CHURCH EXTENSION IN ST. PANCRAS.—

The proposal of the vicar for the erection of ten churches has been generally adopted by a meeting of the clergy and gentry of the parish, who have liberally subscribed. The report of proceedings already taken, read to a recent meeting, concluded with a hope or expectation that, before the end of the year, much would be done. Since March last, the subscriptions, many of them annual, amounted to about 3,450*l*. Temporary churches have been built in four districts, and sites for several of those to be built have been granted, one, with a donation of 500*l*., from the Duke of Bedford.

A LOFTY CHIMNEY in Whitechapel, attached to the extensive premises of Messrs. Bowman and Sons, 27, Great Alie-street, toppled over on Thursday last week, and fell upon the roofs of some adjoining houses, demolishing the garret roofs and floors, but injuring no one but a child. The chimney was always considered perfectly safe.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement, for the works to be done in the erection of the congregational church at Kentish Town; the taking down and rebuilding of St. Pancras Chapel; the erection of a parsonage house near Luton; and two school-rooms for 400 children, with master's house, in Ipswich; the execution of builder's work to be done in the parish of St. Nicholas, Ipswich; the erection of three cottages, stall-feeding building, and cattle shed, near Houghton-le-Spring; the execution of the works on 2½ miles of the East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway; the erection of all the stations on the Manchester and Leeds Wakefield and Goole line, the building of the permanent station and station-master's house at Tweedmouth, on the Newcastle and Berwick line, including iron roofing, slating, painting, glazing, &c., and also for twelve cottages; the sinking of the shafts and the driving of the headings in five of the tunnels on the Monmouth and Hereford line; the sinking of twelve shafts for the tunnels on the Bristol and South Wales Junction line; also for furnishing and repairing York square or patent lamps, with fittings, and lighting &c., in Hampstead; supplying 100 iron lamp-posts, 100 lantern frames and ladder-rests, and 100 gas lanterns in Bromley St. Leonard, Middlesex; also for a supply of 1,000 tons hard Guernsey granite for Brentford Union workhouse; and of paint, pig-lead, &c. for the East-India Company.

BATTERSEA.—Sir: Your mention of "Old Chelsea" is just, kindly intended, and beneficial to every interest connected therewith. Now! do a kindly turn for "poor old Battersea;" be good enough to ask Viscount Morpeth why it is he confines his sympathies to the Chelsea side of the river? Why, after having given notices that the various properties would be required, he allows the matter so to fester that it brings ruin on all those weaker parties who are unable to exist for six months on their other means,—some in prison, some upheld only by the mercy of those to whom they are indebted; seek for information as to how it falls out, that while he is advocating every endeavour to advance the mental and bodily improvement of the people, he is leaving Battersea fields to be occupied every Sunday for horse-racing, drinking, &c. Ask him to satisfy all parties, that the report is untrue,—"That the expense is so much beyond the estimate, that it is necessary, by starving out, to reduce the property to the level of the means at the disposal of the commissioners."

I am, Sir, &c.,

ECARD.

GLASS IN GREENHOUSES.—At the late meeting of the British Association, a paper was read by Mr. Robert Hunt, on the principles upon which the glass is selected for the great palm-house, at Kew. From experiments which he had made, under the direction of Sir W. J. Hooker, he had found that decomposition in plants always proceeded under the red ray, and therefore the principle of his plan for their protection was to select a colour in which the peculiar influence of such rays could be effectively secured. This was most satisfactorily effected by the use of green glass, to a recurrence to the use of which the old horticulturists in the neighbourhood of London had at once given their approbation. It was necessary, however, that no manganese should be used in its composition, as its introduction had a tendency to make a pink colour, which possessed one of those injurious attributes, which were to be avoided.

IRON.—A premium of 1,000*l*. has been offered by the Royal College of Chemistry, for the discovery of a method of rendering iron, when applied to ordinary purposes, as little liable to rust as copper.

GRATUITOUS ADMISSION TO WESTMINSTER HALL.—On Monday, the 19th inst., the public will be admitted, free of charge, to view the works of art now exhibiting at Westminster Hall.

COMPETITION.—Plans and estimates are wanted for an additional pauper lunatic asylum for Middlesex, with a premium of 300*l*. for those most approved, and further premiums of 200*l*. and 100*l*. for those second and third in excellence. See advertisement.

A SURVEYOR is WANTED for the town of Brighton at a salary of 250*l*. per annum, and an office clerk or assistant's salary.